Conner Insurance Agency: 36 years of service

The J. W. Conner Insurance Agency Inc. has been meeting the insurance needs of the area citizens for more than 36 years.

When J. W.(Sam) Conner returned to Appomattox following a tour of duty with the armed forces during World War II he decided insurance was the right field for him. He opened his doors for business in 1947.

Conner, an Appomattox native, is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Duval Conner.

Although the insurance business grew steadily, Conner handled the work load alone until 1975 when his son, Don, came into the business with him.

As Don began to shoulder more and more of the responsibility of the insurance business, his father, more or less, semi-retired.

"He still keeps a watchful eye on things," commented Don. "He more or less acts in an advisory capacity."

Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr. joined the firm in 1982 when the company was incorporated.

Abbitt, an Appomattox native, is the son of Congressman Watkins M. Abbitt, Sr. (retired) and Mrs. Abbitt.

Abbitt is president of the corporation; Don Conner is vice-president and Gaye Honeycutt Cole, secretary-receptionist, is secretary-treasurer of the corporation.

"We sell property and casualty insurance, home owners, fire and commercial insurance, fidelity and surety bonds," said Conner. "We represent eight different companies."

"We are a member of the Professional Insurance Agents Association, a member of the Appomattox County Chamber of Commeree," added Conner.

"We are a small company and we feel we can give you service that you wouldn't get from a larger company, service with a personal touch," said Abbitt.

Appomattox Office Supplies has all you need for well-equipped office

Whatever is needed for your office, Appomattox Office Supplies Inc. has it. From pencils, pens, desks, chairs, paper by the pack or case, and the Gestetner 2001, The Carefree Plain Paper Copier. It's all there. They are located in the lower level of **The Times-Virginian** newspaper building.

Owned and operated by Lloyd and Sarah Vaughan, their son, Bill, and assisted by Mrs. Carole Abernathy, Appomattox Office Supply Inc. offers name brand office furniture and supplies at prices comparable to any you'll find anywhere. Items not in stock are ordered for you with only a minimum of waiting time.

The business began as side line, so to speak, when Vaughan was Editor-Publisher of **The Times-Virginian**. The office supply business was located in the front office of the newspaper building.

As the demand for office supplies grew, Vaughan added shelves and increased his stock until there was no more space.

With the business growdaily, Vaughan moved the office supplies downstairs in October of 1979 to the lower level of the building and added even more lines to the already well-stocked store.

In January of 1980, business became Appomattox Office Supplies Inc.

With more space, Vaughan was now able to handle and have on display office furniture. Included in stock is office furniture by Hon Cole, Art Steel, Miller, United Chair, High Point and others.

A complete line of bookkeeping supplies includes Wilson Jones, National, Oxford and other well known names.

In January of 1980 Vaughan sold the newspaper to Atlantic Publications Ind. with headquarters in Accomac. Vaughan now works full time with the office supply business; his wife, Sarah, works part time for the newspaper and part time for her husband in the family business.

Bill Vaughan, who is active in the family business is a graduate of Appomattox County High School. He attended Ferrum College and Central Virginia Community College.

Appomattox Office Supplies, Inc. is a family business with a personal interest in their customers and a top line of office supplies.

If they haven't got it, they'll get it for you!

Your Insurance Needs . . . Handled With A Personal Touch

PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE
HOMEOWNERS, FIRE, COMMERCIAL INSURANCE
FIDELITY & SURETY BONDS

J. W. Conner Insurance Agency
PHONE 352-5600
106 COURT ST. APPOMATTOX, VA.

SEE US FOR
COMPLETE LINE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES & FURNITURE

- File Cabinets
- Desks
- Lamps
- Office Chairs
- Calculators
- Labels
- Art Supplies by Grumbacher
- Magnetic Signs

YOUR 1-STOP WEDDING CENTER
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INVITATIONS
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- Rubber Stamps
- Laminating
- Copies
- Bulletin Boards
- Drafting Supplies
- Bookkeeping Supplies
- Ribbons for Typewriters and Calculators

LARGE STOCK SUPPLY—Also Dealer For Gestetner Plain Paper Copier

STANDING, from left to right, are Mrs. Carole Abernathy, Sarah Vaughan, Bill Vaughan and Lloyd Vaughan.

APPOMATTOX OFFICE SUPPLIES
Lower Level—Times-Virginian News Bldg. Appomattox
352-7684

Hardware store was founded in 1910

Horse-drawn carriages were common on the streets of Appomattox back in 1910, when Alfred Rice Harwood, Sr., and W.M. Hancock founded Appomattox Hardware Company.

The business, which is managed today by A.R. (Sunny) Harwood, Jr., is the oldest continuous family business in Appomattox.

Appomattox Hardware was first housed in a frame building across the railroad tracks from its current location, according to Sunny. It remained there for a short period of time, until the building which currently houses the business was completed.

As one would expect, a business with the longevity of Appomattox Hardware has seen many changes in the town, its people and the nature of the hardware business itself.

"In the early days, much of what was sold for use on the farm was geared toward horse-drawn equipment," notes Harwood.

In a photograph taken in front of Appomattox Hardware shortly after the business moved to its current location, see advertisement, this page, one can clearly read a sign advertising "Studebakers" on the front of the store.

The product to which that decorative sign refers is not the automobile which was once common on Virginia highways: rather, it is for a different sort of transportation. "That Studebaker was a buggy - the type pulled behind a horse," Harwood says.

Appomattox Hardware did get into the automotive business in time. When the first Model T. Fords were shipped to Appomattox to be sold, they were sold through Appomattox Hardware.

Rural residents of the county got their first electrical current with the help of the Delco 32V lighting systems sold by the hardware company in the days before rural electrification.

In 1918, Sunny's father led the way in founding Farmers National Bank, and S.W. (Tad) Sears became manager of the hardware store. W.M. Hancock had left the business by that time to start a Ford automotive agency in Appomattox.

Several years later, around 1923, Appomattox Hardware began selling an item which is still very much in demand today: petroleum products. With the increasing use of automobiles and gasoline powered farm equipment, gear typical of the "horse-drawn age" began to disappear from the

(Continued on page 25)

SINCE 1910

"The Oldest Family Business in Appomattox"

DRAWING BEING HELD IN FRONT OF APPOMATTOX HARDWARE.

- Full Line Of Hardware
- Plumbing Supplies
- Backhoe Service
- Small Engine Repair
- Amoco Fuels

From The Early Years of Ford Cars, Wagons and Buggies to Modern Day GE & Maytag Appliances, Appomattox Hardware Offers A Wide Range of Merchandise At Reasonable Prices With The Best Services Possible.

- G.E. & Maytag Appliances
- Snapper Mowers & Tillers And Tractors
- Colony Paints
- Garden Seeds & Fertilizers

APPOMATTOX HARDWARE CO., INC

CHURCH & MAIN STREETS PHONE 352-7141 APPOMATTOX, VA.